

Remarks Following a Briefing on the Interstate 35W Bridge Damage and Minnesota Floods in Minneapolis, Minnesota

August 21, 2007

I want to thank the Senators, the Congresspersons, the Governor, and the mayor for joining me and Secretary Peters and others in my administration. We're here to talk about two disasters. First we talked about the bridge that collapsed. I was here earlier, saw the collapse firsthand. I was impressed by the magnitude of the problem. It was—my heart was touched by the fact that people lost their lives.

Coming back here, I'm impressed by the spirit of cooperation that is taking place to solve the problem. The Federal Government, the State government, and the local government have worked very closely, on the one hand, to rescue the remains in a compassionate way. I appreciate our military divers who are so skilled—skilled at not only finding the bodies but skilled at helping a loved one deal with grief.

The question now is, how fast can we get the bridge built? Members of the Minnesota senatorial and congressional delegation did really good work at the end of the session, passed authorization for a significant chunk of money that would go to get this bridge up and running.

And so our job now is to cut through the bureaucracy, as best as possible, and get the people down here a new bridge. And that's what we've been discussing. The recovery is not complete, but pretty close to complete. The investigation as to why is ongoing. What the people of Minneapolis want to know is how fast can we get them a new bridge, and can it be modern, and can it accommodate future forms of transportation. I believe the answer to that question is yes. The spirit that caused the recovery to be well coordinated is the very same spirit that's going to cause this bridge to get rebuilt.

The Governor and others have briefed me on the floods in Congressman Walz's district.

These floods come suddenly. People wake up and find their lives turned upside down. Water comes charging through their communities and really kind of wrecks the infrastructure. But what I have found, and the Congressmen and Senators have found the same thing, you can't wreck the spirit of people.

The job of the Federal Government is to get help moving as quickly as possible. I just talked to the Governor, who has processed the final and the necessary paperwork so that a flood of help can come down—Tim—to get these people realizing somebody cares about them.

I understand rural America pretty well. Sometimes people in rural America wonder whether or not the people in the cities think about them. I appreciate you coming to brief me, because I want those folks to understand, the President thinks about it; the senators and the Governor have heard about it, and they care about it. There's help that's available. We'd love to get the small businesses up and running, maybe help to get some shelter down there for people. I'm looking forward to making sure that the right people show up here on the ground. Secretary Peters has been the right person to coordinate this effort for the bridge, and we'll get somebody down here in charge to give the people in your district some hope.

There's no doubt in my mind that when I come back to see the bridge open that these communities will be up and running too, and that State football championship team you were talking about—[laughter]—will be winning games again.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:53 p.m. in the Base Operations—Blue Room at the Minneapolis/St. Paul Air Reserve Station. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota; and Mayor R.T. Rybak of Minneapolis, MN. He also referred to Public Law 110–56, approved August 6. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Proclamation 8166—National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, 2007

August 21, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, we underscore our commitment to winning the battle against prostate cancer and raising awareness of the risk factors, prevention, and treatment of this disease.

All men can develop prostate cancer, yet studies have shown that risk increases with age. Although the exact cause of the disease is not yet known, factors that may affect the likelihood of developing prostate cancer include race, diet, general health, and family history. Because the chances of surviving prostate cancer may be higher when it is diagnosed and treated in its early stages, men should speak with their doctors about their risk and screening options.

America leads the world in medical research, and we are committed to continuing our progress in the search for a cure for prostate cancer. Through work at the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense, we are exploring the genetic, biochemical, environmental, and lifestyle factors that increase prostate cancer risk and lead to its development and progression. These and other efforts are helping improve our knowledge of the causes of this disease.

As we observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, we recognize the strength and courage of the men battling prostate cancer and of those who love and support them. We also pay tribute to the medical professionals, the researchers, and all those whose tireless efforts are making a positive difference in the lives of those living with prostate cancer. All Americans can raise awareness and help fight this disease by talking with their friends and families about the risk of prostate cancer and the ways to prevent, detect, and treat it.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,
President of the United States of America,

by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 2007 as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. I call upon government officials, businesses, communities, health care professionals, educators, and the people of the United States to reaffirm our Nation's strong and ongoing commitment to the fight against prostate cancer.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on August 23.

Proclamation 8167—National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month, 2007

August 21, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month provides an opportunity to underscore our commitment to stopping alcohol and drug abuse before it starts and to helping citizens in need overcome addiction and rebuild their lives.

Alcohol and drug addiction can ruin lives and devastate families. We must continue working toward a society in which our citizens can lead lives free from the influence of alcohol and drugs. Friends and family members can play a vital role in the fight and prevention of abuse by discussing the dangers and consequences with loved ones.

My Administration is dedicated to the battle against drug and alcohol addiction. We are expanding access to treatment and recovery support services through the Access to Recovery program. The Drug Enforcement Agency is helping stem the flow of illegal